

**DOCKET NO.: VTN-0564-USA**  
**Application No.: 09/819,074**  
**Office Action Dated: Dec. 16, 2003**

**PATENT**  
**REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED**  
**PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO**  
**37 CFR § 1.116**

**Listing of Claims:**

1 – 26. Canceled.

27. (New) An apparatus for detecting the presence or position of a contact lens in a container, comprising:

- a) a source of electromagnetic energy located relative to the container to direct electromagnetic energy at the container;
- b) a non-imaging detector disposed relative to the container and the source to detect electromagnetic energy from the source which passes through or is reflected by the contact lens and the container; and
- c) means for indicating the presence or position of the contact lens in the container responsive to fluorescence, absorption or reflection of the electromagnetic energy by the product;

wherein the source emits electromagnetic energy having a wavelength in the visible range, and the detector is sensitive to the electromagnetic energy in the visible range, and the contact lens absorbs electromagnetic energy having a wavelength in the visible range.

28. (New) An apparatus for detecting the presence or position of a contact lens in a container, comprising:

- a) a source of electromagnetic energy located relative to the container to direct electromagnetic energy at the container;
- b) a non-imaging detector disposed relative to the container and the source to detect electromagnetic energy from the source which passes through or is reflected by the contact lens and the container; and
- c) means for indicating the presence or position of the contact lens in the container responsive to fluorescence, absorption or reflection of the electromagnetic energy by the product;

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wherein the source emits electromagnetic energy having a wavelength in the infrared range, and the detector is sensitive to the electromagnetic energy in the infrared range, and the contact lens absorbs electromagnetic energy having a wavelength in the infrared range.